500.43697X00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

TACHIHARA, et al

Serial No.:

Not Yet Assigned

Filed:

On Even Date

For:

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT METHOD, SYSTEM AND PROGRAM

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97 & 1.98

Mail Stop Patent Application Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 March 24, 2004

Sir:

In the matter of the above-identified application, applicants are submitting herewith a copy of the document listed in the attached form equivalent to Form PTO-1449 for the Examiner's consideration.

This information disclosure statement is being submitted with the new application.

Although the document listed on the attached form equivalent to Form PTO-1449 is not in the English language, the requirement of 37 CFR 1.98 (a) (3) for a concise explanation of the relevance is satisfied by the attached English language abstract.

It is respectfully requested that this information disclosure statement be considered by the Examiner.

Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 500.43697X00), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS LLP

Paul J. Skwierawski

Registrátion No. 32,173

PJS/nac Attachments

PTO/SB/08a (08-03)

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO  INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT					Complete if Known					
					Application Number					
					Filing Date			March 24, 2004		
					First Named Inventor			TACHIHARA, HIDEKAZU		
					Art Unit					
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Sheet	•	1	of	1	Attorney I	Docket	Number	500.4369	7X00	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS										
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initials		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)		MM-DL			cant of Cited Doc	ument	Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Considered

Signature

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.